Muslims in Selection Board

3513. SHRIAMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Muslim intellectuals, N.G.Os and academicians have demanded that there should be at least one Muslim on each Selection Board that conducts recruitment tests;

(b) whether they have also demanded proportionate representation in Government services including defence forces; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) Instructions had already been issued in 1990 to provide that wherever a Selection Committee/Board exists or has to be constituted for making recruitment to ten or more vacancies in Group 'C or Group 'D' posts/services, it shall be mandatory to have one member belonging to minority community in such Committee/Board. The Union Public Service Commission was also requested to follow this practice in respect of recuritment to Group A' and Group 'B' posts/services.

A National Commission to recommend measures for welfare of the socially and economically backward sections among the religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation for them in education and Government employment, has been constituted *vide* Resolution dated 29th October, 2004.

Security of Indian Workers in Afghanistan

3514. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian engineer working in Afghanistan was kidnapped and beheaded by the Talibans recently;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Indians working in Afghanistan are being targeted by Taliban extremists;